

**America's Health
Insurance Plans**

601 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
South Building
Suite Five Hundred
Washington, DC 20004

202.778.3200
www.ahip.org



August 27, 2009

Representative Barb Byrum
124 North Capitol
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

***Re: H.B. 5234 –Legislation Enacting the Genetic Nondiscrimination Requirements for
Medicare Supplement Insurance***

Dear Representative Byrum:

I am writing today on behalf of America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) to voice our support for the proposed amendments to Michigan's genetic nondiscrimination requirements for Medicare supplement insurance outlined in H.B. 5234 (2009), as introduced. AHIP is a national association representing approximately 1,300 health insurance plans that provide health insurance coverage to more than 200 million Americans. Our members offer a broad range of health insurance products in the commercial marketplace, including Medicare supplement, and also have demonstrated a strong commitment to participation in public programs.

AHIP member companies appreciate the efforts of the Michigan House Committee on Insurance to revise the state's standard for Medicare supplement insurance consistent with the genetic nondiscrimination provisions of the *2008 National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) Medicare Supplement Insurance Minimum Standards Model Regulation*, which was updated to conform to the federal statutory changes made by the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA).

We commend your leadership and the Committee's commitment on this important issue. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at r Ramsay@ahip.org or (202) 778-3230.

Sincerely,

Rick Ramsay
Vice President